



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2004

## V CORPS 'CAV' SOLDIERS SWEEP IRAQ AREA SYMPATHETIC TO SADDAM HUSSEIN

By **Spc. Ismael Turay Jr.**  
196<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**DARMSTADT, Germany** – After months of fighting, the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division rid this city of insurgents and returned the community to normalcy.

However, 1/4th Cav officials learned in late October that in the Peninsula, an upscale section of Ad Duluiyah, "a significant" number of residents were harboring insurgents and funding attacks against coalition forces.

As a result, the squadron launched Operation Duluiyah Sunrise. The operation called for

soldiers to search each of the 500 homes in the Peninsula and gather information that will be used in the future, said 1st Lt. William Cherkauskas from the first platoon of Alpha Troop, 1/4th.

It's no surprise that some residents continue to resist, even though coalition forces have spent millions of dollars to improve quality of life and infrastructure in the city.



SPC ISMAEL TURAY JR.  
Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Garcia of V Corps' Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, shows his Soldiers a picture of Saddam Hussein and his sons Garcia found while searching a home in Ad Duluiyah in early November.

Nearly the entire population belongs to the Al Jabouri tribe, which traditionally has been loyal to former dictator Saddam Hussein.

Many of them worked for Hussein during his regime, and he treated the tribe well. They held powerful, high-paying jobs. The average Al Jabouri family in the Peninsula lives in a lavish home, by Iraqi standards, while others reside in shabby dwellings.

"So when (Hussein) went away, they had a lot to lose, and that's why they are not happy to see us," said Cherkauskas.

During a recent dismounted reconnaissance patrol in the Peninsula, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Garcia, a platoon sergeant with Alpha Troop's third platoon joined his Soldiers in a search of homes in an area near a major intersection. The platoon teamed up with a group of engineers and mortar crew members.

A large number of attacks have occurred in the area near the intersection, said Garcia. But as he and his men stood in the bustling intersection that Saturday afternoon, Staff Sgt. Jeremy J. Smith said the chance of an attack was slim.

"We are always trying to keep up security," said Smith, a third platoon section sergeant. "But from past experiences, we know that when there are a lot of people on the streets, there's not going to be an attack."

During the searches of the homes, Garcia and his team members asked permission before entering people's houses. In most cases, the residents were accommodating.

The Soldiers were careful not to destroy people's property when searching, and left things as they found them. The troops also acted as goodwill ambassadors as they played with children and gave them gifts of pens and pencils.

After searching the home of an ailing senior citizen, Garcia promised the man's son that his father would be looked at by an Army medic during the next patrol.

While searching another home, Garcia and his men found a photograph of Hussein and his two sons. The resident said he's opposed to Hussein, but he keeps the picture in case the deposed leader returns to power. Garcia confiscated the photograph.

Many of the soldiers were disheartened by what they saw at another house hours into the mission. Flies covered a little boy who appeared to be mentally ill. His pants were halfway down and he sat in his own feces.

Someone had tied a rope around his ankle and the other end to a metal bar on a window. He appeared to be about 10 years old.

Around the corner from the boy, a toddler wearing dirty clothes sat on the filthy floor with several flies on her face. The child looked as if she had not had a bath in days.

Sgt. Orville Whitlock is a member of the division's 9th Engineers Battalion and a father.

"It's sad to see something like this," he said. "It just makes you more proud to be from America and also proud to be here to help these people so they can handle stuff like this in a more humane manner.

"It's breaking children down to a lower level," Whitlock said, his voice cracking.

"Even lower than pets, because some people don't even lock their pets up like this. This isn't right."

Halfway through Operation Duluiyah Sunrise, which started in mid-October, the 1/4th Cav had not found excessive amounts of weapons or other contraband, Cherkauskas said. But, he added, people with illegal weapons tend to hide them in public places such as parks and orchards.

"These people know we are coming," he said. "You can hear a Bradley (Fighting Vehicle) from a mile away. They know we are coming and they've seen us come down there before in the middle of the night and they are not stupid."

